

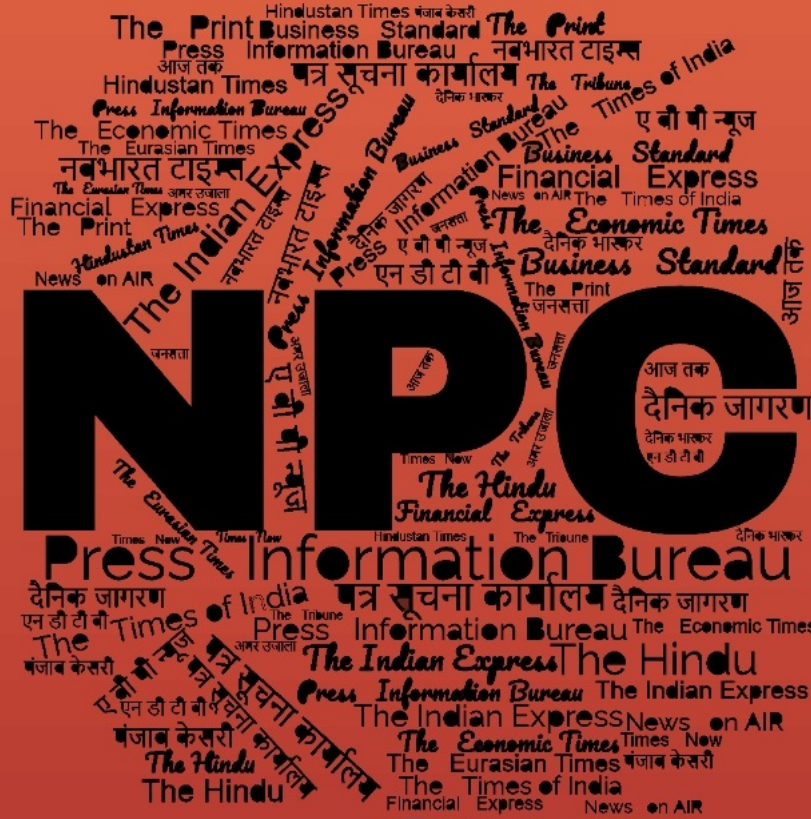
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समाचार पत्रों से चयनित अंश Newspapers Clippings

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Defence News

भारत यूएई के बीच रक्षा सहयोग व्यापक

Source: Dainik Jagran, Dt. 20 Jan 2026

जयप्रकाश रंजन • जागरण

नई दिल्ली: भारत और यूएई के बीच कई समझौते पर मुहर लगी है। विदेश सचिव विक्रम मिसरी ने कहा, 'भारत और यूएई के बीच रणनीतिक रक्षा सहयोग समझौते की दिशा में आगे बढ़ने पर पश्चिम एशिया में काल्पनिक घटनाक्रमों में शामिल होने की योजना नहीं है। यूएई से रक्षा व सुरक्षा क्षेत्र में भागीदारी का यह मतलब नहीं कि हम क्षेत्रीय संघर्षों में विशेष तरीके से शामिल हो जाएंगे। भारत व यूएई के बीच रक्षा सहयोग काफी व्यापक है।'

वर्ष 2022 में भारत-यूएई में के बीच हुए कारोबारी समझौते से द्विपक्षीय कारोबार बढ़ाने में मदद मिली है। अब इसे वर्ष 2032 तक दोगुना करने पर सहमति बनी है। यूएई ने छह वर्ष पहले भारत में 100 अरब डालर का नये निवेश की बात कही थी। सोमवार की बैठक में गुजरात में विकसित हो रहे धोलेरा औद्योगिक शहर में अब यूएई का निवेश आने का रास्ता साफ होता दिख रहा है। विदेश सचिव ने बताया कि इस पहल से धोलेरा में अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के अलावा एक ग्रीनफील्ड पोर्ट, एक

स्मार्ट टाउनशिप, रेलवे कनेक्टिविटी व ऊर्जा ढांचे से जुड़ी परियोजनाएं स्थापित की जाएंगी।

एक समझौता हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम कारपोरेशन लि. व अबुधाबी नेशनल आयल के बीच हुआ। इसके तहत वर्ष 2028 से अगले 10 वर्षों तक भारत को सालाना पांच लाख मीट्रिक टन तरल प्राकृतिक गैस (एलएनजी) की आपूर्ति की जाएगी। यूएई भारत का कतर के बाद दूसरा सबसे बड़ा एलएनजी आपूर्तिकर्ता देश है। ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में दूसरी सहमति बनी है परमाणु ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र में। भारत के शांति कानून के तहत भारत व यूएई छोटे एवं बड़े परमाणु ऊर्जा संयंत्र लगाने में सहयोग करेंगे।

दोनों देशों के बीच अंतरिक्ष क्षेत्र में सहयोग को लेकर अहम समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर हुए हैं। इसके तहत राकेट निर्माण से लेकर लांचिंग स्थल निर्माण व प्रशिक्षण केंद्र स्थापित किया जाएगा। एक अन्य समझौते के तहत भारत से यूएई को चावल, खाद्य उत्पाद व कृषि उत्पादों का निर्यात बढ़ाया जाएगा।

डिजिटल दूतावास की संभावना तलाशेंगे: दोनों नेताओं ने अपने-अपने अधिकारियों को निर्देश दिया कि वे परस्पर मान्यता प्राप्त संप्रभु

व्यवस्थाओं के तहत भारत व यूएई के बीच 'डिजिटल दूतावास' स्थापित करने की संभावना का पता लगाएं। यह एक नया सोच है। इस पहल में ऐसे डाटा के लिए सुरक्षित रिपोजिटरी बनाना शामिल है जिसे कोई देश रणनीतिक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण मानता है। एआइ को सहयोग के प्राथमिकता वाले क्षेत्र के रूप में चिह्नित किया गया और यूएई की साझेदारी से भारत में एक सुपरकंप्यूटिंग क्लस्टर स्थापित करने में मदद का फैसला किया गया। यूएई भारत में डाटा सेंटर की क्षमता बढ़ाने में निवेश पर विचार करेगा।

सीमा पार आतंकवाद की निंदा : विदेश सचिव ने बताया कि मोदी व नाहयान ने सीमा पार आतंकवाद की निंदा की और कहा कि आतंकी गतिविधियों को अंजाम देने वालों, उनका समर्थन व वित्तपोषण करने वालों को न्याय के कठघरे में लाया जाना चाहिए। यूएई के राष्ट्रपति ने इस वर्ष भारत की अध्यक्षता में ब्रिक्स की सफलता के लिए समर्थन व्यक्त किया। दोनों देशों के बीच एक परियोजना पर सैद्धांतिक सहमति बनी है, जिसमें अबू धाबी में 'हाउस आफ इंडिया' नामक सांस्कृतिक स्थल की स्थापना शामिल है।

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PM meets UAE President: Defence, LNG, \$200-billion trade target on table

Source: The Indian Express, Dt. 20 Jan 2026

Amid renewed churn in West Asia, with US President Donald Trump inviting India to join the Board of Peace in Gaza and tensions brewing between Saudi Arabia and UAE over competing interests in Yemen, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met visiting UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan at his residence Monday and agreed on a range of bilateral agreements and outcomes — from defence to space and LNG.

After their three-and-a-half-hour meeting at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, Modi posted on X that he was “deeply touched” by the UAE President’s “gesture of visiting Delhi this evening”. “We discussed a wide range of issues aimed at further strengthening the multifaceted India-UAE friendship,” he posted.

The UAE ruler posted on X that he was “pleased” to meet with Modi to “discuss opportunities to further strengthen the deep-rooted and historical ties of cooperation”. “Committed to fostering sustainable development and economic growth, the UAE and India will continue working together to drive progress in future-focused sectors...,” he wrote.

In all, the two leaders firmed up five agreements and seven outcomes, including a framework pact on defence, a joint initiative on space, a \$200-billion trade target, cooperation on AI, partnership on small nuclear reactors, a super-computing cluster in India, and a 10-year LNG pact, among others. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri described the UAE ruler’s visit as “extremely substantive” but ruled out any entanglement in a potential conflict between UAE and Saudi Arabia in the region.

“Our involvement on the defence and security front with a country from the region does not then necessarily lead to the conclusion that we will get involved in particular ways in the conflicts of the region,” Misri said, adding that there is already significant cooperation and engagement in defence between India and UAE.

Later, a joint statement said both leaders highlighted “deep respect for each other’s sovereignty and territorial integrity and the importance of strategic autonomy”. “They acknowledged steady and strong bilateral defence and security cooperation as a core pillar of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. They welcomed the momentum generated by the recent exchange of visits by the respective Service Chiefs and Commanders of the Army, Navy and Air Force of both countries, and the successful conduct of bilateral military exercises. They welcomed the signing of Letter of Intent towards the conclusion of a Strategic Defence Partnership,” it said.

Mohamed bin Zayed’s visit and the expansive set of outcomes come months after Saudi Arabia and Pakistan signed a bilateral defence pact. According to Misri, the two leaders also discussed the situation in Yemen and Iran, and the Gaza peace plan, and expressed support for efforts to “promote peace, security and stability” in the region.

On the economic front, the joint statement welcomed the signing of “a 10-year LNG Supply Agreement between Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and ADNOC Gas for the delivery of 0.5 million tonnes per year of liquefied natural gas, beginning in 2028”. The agreement makes the UAE India’s second-largest LNG supplier. The leaders also decided to explore cooperation in advanced nuclear technologies, welcoming “the enactment of the Sustainable

Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) law, noting that it creates new opportunities for enhanced civil nuclear cooperation”.

“The two sides agreed to explore partnership in advanced nuclear technologies, including development and deployment of large nuclear reactors and Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), as well as cooperation in advanced reactor systems, nuclear power plant operations and maintenance and nuclear safety,” the statement said. They further agreed to examine the possibility of setting up a digital or data embassy, work towards doubling bilateral trade to \$200 billion by 2032, and explore interlinking national payments platforms to promote trade.

“The two leaders welcomed the robust growth in trade and economic cooperation since the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in 2022 and noted the rapid growth of bilateral trade, which reached US\$ 100 billion in FY 2024-25. Buoyed by the enthusiasm of the business communities on both sides, they decided to double bilateral trade to target US\$ 200 billion by 2032,” it said. Besides, the leaders called for perpetrators, supporters and financiers of terrorism to be brought to justice, Misri said.

“The two leaders reiterated their unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism, and emphasised that no country should provide safe haven to those who finance, plan, support or commit terrorist acts. They agreed to continue cooperation within the framework of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to counter terror financing and strengthen anti-money laundering efforts,” the statement said.

They also announced the establishment of a ‘House of India’ in Abu Dhabi; setting up of offices and operations of UAE companies First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB) and DP World at GIFT City in Gujarat; and, signing of a letter of Intent on Investment Cooperation between Gujarat and UAE for developing the Dholera Special Investment region. Modi and Mohamed bin Zayed directed their teams to work towards interlinking their national payment platforms to enable efficient, fast and cost-effective cross-border payments. They called for the expeditious implementation of key initiatives, such as ‘Bharat Mart’, the ‘Virtual Trade Corridor’ and the ‘Bharat-Africa Setu’ to promote MSME products across the Middle East, West Asia, Africa and the Eurasia region.

Mohamed bin Zayed, or MBZ as he is popularly known, was received by Modi at the airport, signalling the importance New Delhi attached to the visit. The brief visit was originally planned for late last week, sources said. This is the second time Modi has personally received MBZ on arrival, after December 2024. Modi has departed from protocol to receive visiting leaders at the airport eight times in the past 11-and-a-half years. Later, External Affairs minister S Jaishankar went to the airport to see off the UAE President – again, an honour accorded to very few visiting leaders.

The backdrop to Monday’s meeting was also the sharp escalation in tensions between Saudi Arabia and the UAE over Yemen. While Abu Dhabi is backing the Southern Transitional Council, a separatist group formed in 2017, which controls parts of southern Yemen, Saudi Arabia supports the internationally recognised Presidential Leadership Council. For India, UAE’s outreach is significant at a time when Delhi is talking to the Emirati leadership to get a better sense of the state of play in Gaza as well as the rivalry with the Saudis.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/pm-modi-meets-uae-president-sheikh-mohamed-bin-zayed-al-nahyan-defence-1ng-200-billion-trade-target-on-table-10483475/>

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Indian defence company to invest ₹500 cr in chip plant

Source: *The Economic Times*, Dt. 20 Jan 2026

An Indian defence company is investing Rs 500 crore to set up a new semiconductor production facility to tap into the domestic and export market, with production slated to start by the end of next year. Paras Defence and Space Technologies Ltd, which is already a leading player in defence optical and optronic systems, is looking to create a domestic hub for chiplet integration and advanced system-in-package technologies. India currently relies only on imports for such technologies, with Israel being the leading supplier, followed by Europe. Paras Defence sees an annual domestic requirement of Rs 2,500 crore for sensors and chipsets as India is focused on an indigenisation drive, along with a major scaling up in the requirement of weapon systems.

"The main purpose is to develop and produce semiconductor devices for thermal imaging systems, which is going to be the first time by any in India. We are talking about 10,000 plus detectors every year and the minimum price of one detector with the electronics for basically cool thermal imaging application will be approximately 25 lakh," Munjal Sharad Shah, managing director, Paras Defence and Space Technologies Ltd, told ET. The company is also confident that it will be more price competitive than overseas suppliers and has put together a scientific team that includes former employees of DRDO and ISRO. It also said that the entire effort is being done in house, with no foreign collaboration.

Paras is in discussions with state governments to identify a final site for the new plant and said it will also leverage central and state government schemes that promote setting up of semiconductor facilities. As per plans, the company will set up a 50,000 square feet facility in the first phase, which is planned to commence operations and start delivering by the end of 2027. The second phase, according to Shah, will involve a further expansion of 50,000 square feet.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/indian-defence-company-to-invest-500-cr-in-chip-plant/articleshow/126707727.cms?from=mdr>

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Why India Needs Joint Military Reform

-by Umang Kohli, Defence Analyst

Source: *The Pioneer*, Dt. 20 Jan 2026

Terrorists killed or terror HQs destroyed are critical to bringing normalcy and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir. However, the key is damage to the Pakistani military and a strategic message of intent that retaliation will go into Pakistan's heartland and its military bases. Also, it is necessary to bust the belief of the Pakistani people that they have a formidable army that defends no matter what. We all know the Pakistani Army is a thoroughly corrupt organisation. However, these two messages, part of a larger narrative, have not gone to the world.

The momentum of battle changed in India's favour on May 10 when we hit PAF bases, including Nur Khan. It also took the Pakistani people by surprise. However, the ceasefire came prematurely. We let go of the strategic advantage we had gained; however, the lessons need to be drawn and then implemented in letter and spirit. The narrative building was almost unclear from a strategic point of view. Only facts were bluntly put forward, and since we did not choose to share all the facts, the ones shared could not carry the weight they deserved.

In future, we would like to be better prepared and convey our strategic intent clearly. Obviously, the Directorate of Strategic Communication of the Indian Army did a fabulous job; however, the bigger picture of strategic messaging achieved via our punitive action was missing. That needs to come through in future battles or even during peacetime. Ultimately, the DGMO of the three forces had to hold fort. We need to be better prepared for the future. When we talk about synergy and jointmanship, it is felt that the Directorate of Strategic Communication should be a tri-service command function. The Additional Directorate of Strategic Communication cannot continue to function as an army-only arm after Op Sindoor. Continuous strategic communication mandates the three arms to have a joint strategic communication cell. Towards that end, a Joint Strategic Communication Cell may come up under the CDS with a three-star officer in charge.

The Strategic Communication Directorate may talk about strategic matters only. And obviously strategic matters are tri-service in nature. Also, it is felt that the overall discussion on the evolution of warfare (after studying the Russia-Ukraine war or Israel-Hamas conflict) is not amalgamated with strategic communication. The Strategic Communication Directorate should then directly go under the CDS and should not operate under the VCOAS. DG Strategic Communication should be a three-star officer, preferably from the Air Force. Strategic communication obviously needs a bird's-eye view, which the Air Force may be able to provide.

Coming to another critical aspect, connecting the tactical battlefield and strategic decision-making requires AI in modern-day warfare. This is largely dependent on satellites and bandwidth. AI can also suck you into a mosaic of warfare if the adversary has made the first AI move. So staying ahead of the curve is important. For that, we need thousands of military satellites to be put in space at the earliest. We are at the stage of C5IR; however, we need to go to C5IR star 2. This star 2 refers to the AI integration of data. The Indian Army has announced 2026 and 2027 as the years to focus on strengthening the 'networking' of the force, with 2026 specifically declared as the "Year of Networking & Data Centricity".

This initiative is part of the Army's broader 'Decade of Transformation' (2023-2032), which aims to shift from isolated, platform-centric systems to a modern, data-driven, and fully integrated force. Now, to involve AI in this, we need to share data; we are generally reluctant to do that. However, that may be the key towards modern-day warfare and our expertise in it. It is critical also to now talk about the raising of a Rocket Force under the CDS. A localised missile force under Artillery may not serve a strategic purpose. Russia decided to have a separate Rocket Force like China after it burnt its hands in the Russia-Ukraine war. Pakistan has already announced its plans to have the same, so it is critical to have a separate rocket force which is under the direct command of the CDS.

Coming to Integrated Battle Groups, they may require integration with the Air Force as well to protect them from the diverse kinds of drones that are available to various armies of the world. IBG is being used as a test bed in the Mountain Strike Corps. A speedy induction may be of importance. Our nuclear doctrine needs a fresh look after Operation Sindoor. Second use of nuclear weapons is no good deterrence against a country like Pakistan. Also, while our delivery systems are among the best in the world, we need to carry out more nuclear tests to develop suitable tactical weapons in the future. So not signing the CTBT is only of use if we exercise the freedom associated with it.

<https://dailypioneer.com/news/why-india-needs-joint-military-reform>

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Indian Navy signs contract for three 'Bottom Opening Non-Propelled Barges' with M/S Suryadipta Projects Private Limited, Thane

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 20 Jan 2026

A contract for construction and delivery of 03 x 200T Bottom Opening Non-Propelled Barges has been concluded with M/s Suryadipta Projects Private Limited, Thane (MSME Shipyard) on 16 Jan 2026. These Barges are the proud flag bearers of Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative of Govt. of India and will be built under the Classification Rules of Indian Register of Shipping (IRS).



With this Contract, Indian Navy has exhibited its strong commitment to encourage and bolster the growth of MSME Shipyards thereby contributing immensely towards the domestic shipbuilding Eco-system in lines of Maritime India Vision – 2030.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2216216®=3&lang=1>

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Indian Navy's First Training Squadron departs Singapore

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 19 Jan 2026

The First Training Squadron (1TS) of the Indian Navy departed Singapore on 18 Jan 2026, marking the successful completion of a three-day port call as part of the ongoing Training Deployment. During the port call, a wide array of bilateral engagements was undertaken, encompassing professional exchanges, training interactions, sporting fixtures, cultural outreach, and social engagements. As part of professional interactions, Capt Tijo K Joseph, Senior Officer 1TS, accompanied by Commanding Officers of INS Shardul, INS Sujata, and ICGS Sarathi, paid a courtesy call to Col Tay Choong Hern, Acting Commander, Maritime Training and Doctrine Command (MTDC). The discussions highlighted the six-decade-long partnership between India

and Singapore, with emphasis on sustained military cooperation and shared maritime security interests. In a solemn tribute, a wreath-laying ceremony was conducted at the Kranji War Memorial, where the Commanding Officers of 1TS ships paid homage to the fallen heroes.



A deck reception was co-hosted by HE Dr Shilpak Ambule, High Commissioner of India to Singapore, and the Senior Officer 1TS onboard INS Tir and ICGS Sarathi. The event witnessed the presence of senior leadership from the Republic of Singapore Navy, heads of missions, members of the Indian diaspora, diplomats, and other distinguished guests. In his address, the Chief Guest Col Tay Choong Hern acknowledged the strong partnership between the Indian Navy and RSN, nurtured through regular bilateral exercises and interactions, and reaffirmed Singapore's commitment to further enhancing defence ties.



Cultural outreach formed an integral component of the visit, with the Indian Navy Band delivering captivating performances at Our Tampines Mall and the GIIS Auditorium. As part of sporting fixtures, a friendly dodgeball match was conducted between Indian Navy and the RSN trainees.

Professional training exchanges included Damage Control (DC) training for 1TS sea trainees at the DC simulator and visit to RSN Museum, where they were provided a comprehensive insight into the history and evolution of the Royal Singapore Navy. The ships were open to visitors, including International Liaison Officers (ILOs) of International Fusion Centre (IFC) Singapore, High Commission of India staff, guests, and families, offering them an overview of the role of the First Training Squadron in shaping future naval leadership.

The squadron also undertook philanthropic activities, with a delegation spending an afternoon interacting with residents of the Sree Narayan Old Age Home and Nursery, reflecting the Indian Navy's commitment to social responsibility and community engagement. The deployment of the First Training Squadron to Singapore exemplifies the deep-rooted ties between the two nations and aligns with the vision of MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions). The visit further reinforces India's Act East Policy, expands its maritime outreach beyond South Asia into the broader Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian region, and reaffirms the Indian Navy's enduring commitment to fostering friendship, enhancing training experiences, and contributing to a secure and cooperative maritime environment.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2216324®=3&lang=1>

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Science & Technology News

Research Development Innovation (RDI) funding for industry-backed projects to start by the end of this month: Dr Jitendra Singh

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 19 Jan 2026

As a follow up to the announcement made by PM Shri Narendra Modi on November 3, 2025, the Research Development Innovation (RDI) funding for industry-backed projects will start by the end of this month, with the funding framework having entered into the execution phase, and two public sector institutions poised to start funding industry-backed projects. This was disclosed following a review of the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund scheme at a meeting chaired by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh.

During the meeting, Dr. Jitendra Singh was briefed on the progress of the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) scheme, which was approved by the Union Cabinet on July 1 last year and formally rolled out on November 3 with the launch of its implementation guidelines, notice inviting applications and a dedicated digital portal by the Prime Minister. Officials informed the Minister that the scheme is aimed at supporting high-risk, high-impact research and strengthening linkages between laboratories, startups and industry.

The Department of Science & Technology (DST) has approved the Technology Development Board (TDB) and the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) as the first

Second-Level Fund Managers (SLFMs) under the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund, a ₹1 lakh crore initiative to catalyse private sector-led research and innovation. Under the approved implementation framework, TDB will act as the Second-Level Fund Manager for projects spanning all RDI sunrise and strategic sectors, while BIRAC will oversee initiatives in biotechnology and allied domains. Both organisations are expected to issue their first calls for proposals by the end of January 2026, facilitating early deployment of RDI Fund resources to innovation-driven ventures that have progressed beyond TRL-4.

The last date to receive applications from other Second Level Fund Managers is 31 January 2026. The other fund managers may be Alternate Investment Fund structure (AIF), Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), Non-Banking Finance Corporation (NBFC) and Focused Research Organization (FRO). Dr. Jitendra Singh was informed that after the formal rollout of the RDI scheme, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) received a significant number of queries from stakeholders seeking clarification on the implementation guidelines. These were examined and addressed, following which the online portal was operationalised to receive applications for Second Level Fund Managers. As provided in the Cabinet note, the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) and the Technology Development Board (TDB) were invited on a nomination basis to take up this role.

The Minister was further briefed that the Empowered Group of Secretaries, at its meeting held on January 12, approved BIRAC and TDB as Second Level Fund Managers in line with the decision of the Executive Council of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF). Both organisations will receive ₹2,000 crore each in the first quarter, taking the initial allocation under the scheme to ₹4,000 crore, and are expected to issue calls for project proposals from Startups, companies and industry before the end of January.

Chairing the review, Dr. Jitendra Singh stressed the need for timely execution of the RDI scheme and close coordination among science departments. He emphasised that public funding for research and innovation must translate into measurable outcomes for industry and society, and took stock of steps being taken to streamline processes, including revisions to the implementation guidelines based on stakeholder feedback, to ensure transparency and ease of participation.

Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasised the need for closer coordination among science departments and timely implementation of flagship initiatives, including the RDI scheme. He underlined that public investment in research must translate into tangible outcomes for industry and society, and align with national development priorities. The Minister also reviewed measures being taken to streamline procedures, including revisions to the implementation guidelines based on stakeholder feedback, to ensure transparency and ease of participation.

During the discussions, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted that strengthening private sector participation in research and development remains a key objective of the RDI framework. He said the scheme is intended to support translational research and facilitate stronger linkages between public research institutions, startups and industry, enabling scientific outputs to move more effectively towards commercial and societal application. The meeting was attended by Secretaries and senior officers from science ministries and departments. The proceedings commenced with welcome remarks by Prof. Ajay K. Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, followed by the opening remarks by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh.

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